



MEDIA ADVISORY

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 14, 2005

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TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES EXTENDS HOURS IN HAMILTON COUNTY OFFICE TO ACCOMMODATE HURRICANE KATRINA VICTIMS

WHAT: Due to the large number of Hurricane Katrina refugees in the Hamilton County area, the Tennessee Department of Human Services is extending the hours in its Chattanooga office one night a week to assist those families and individuals applying for emergency services. DHS staff will work until 7 p.m. every Thursday to take applications from Hurricane Katrina victims for the emergency Families First EASE program and the expedited Food Stamp program.

WHEN: Beginning Thursday, September 15
8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

******extended hours on Thursdays will continue indefinitely******

WHERE: 311 East Martin Luther King Blvd.
423-634-6200

MORE: DHS is working to quickly serve the needs of those families with children impacted by Hurricane Katrina. The Families First EASE program is a new emergency program that allows a one-time cash assistance payment to qualifying evacuee families and children. The expedited Food Stamp program entails potential recipients filling out applications and undergoing a brief interview with DHS staff to verify eligibility. Applicants will receive a temporary Food Stamp card with \$100 in Food Stamp benefits on it and should receive their permanent Food Stamp cards within a few days of applying. The State of Tennessee is carefully coordinating its response to the fallout from Hurricane Katrina. Governor Bredesen has asked all departments and agencies in state government to work closely together to provide help and services to evacuees who are coming to Tennessee. Regular briefings on Tennessee's response to Hurricane Katrina are available through the Governor's office at 615.741.3763.

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